

Applicants respectfully request that Minamisawa be removed as a reference as allowed under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

The Minamisawa patent is assigned to NEC Corporation. The Minamisawa patent qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) since the Minamisawa patent issued on February 15, 2000 based on an application filed in the U.S. on November 6, 1997. The present application was filed in the United States on June 14, 2000. Further, the Minamisawa patent and the present application were, at the time the present invention was made, commonly owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to NEC Corporation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that at least because Minamisawa is not prior art against this application, this rejection must be withdrawn.

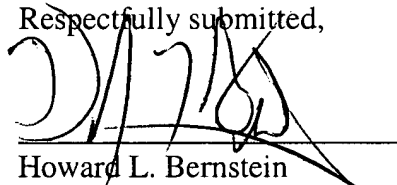
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Application No. 09/593,158

Attorney Docket No.: Q59650

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard L. Bernstein  
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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